

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 021069

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, BR

SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TO BRAZIL

REF: A) BRASILIA 8161, B) BRASILIA 9177, C) BRASILIA 9400

1. THIS CABLE ENDEAVORS TO ANSWER SOME OF THE QUESTIONS
RAISED BY THE EMBASSY IN REFTELS AND MAY BE DRAWN UPON
IN ROUTINE DISCUSSIONS WITH GOB OFFICIALS ON THE ISSUE OF
TRANSFER OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TO BRAZIL.

2. WITH REGARD TO WESTINGHOUSE'S REQUEST (REFTEL A) THAT
USG PROVIDE "COMMITMENT" FOR PROVISION OF ENRICHMENT
SERVICES FOR TEN YEAR PERIOD, USG IS NOT REPEAT NOT IN
POSITION AT THIS TIME TO MAKE ANY NEW OR ADDITIONAL
COMMITMENTS BEYOND THOSE ALREADY EXPRESSED TO GOB IN AIDE
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MEMOIRE (SEE STATE 179078 AND PARA. 2 OF STATE 23243).

THOSE ASSURANCES REMAIN VALID, DESPITE DELAYS IN REVISION OF BILATERAL. EMBASSY MAY STRESS TO GOB OFFICIALS THAT FUNDAMENTAL POLICY OF USG IS TO REMAIN RELIABLE SUPPLIER OF ENRICHMENT SERVICES FOR OTHER COUNTRIES' POWER NEEDS.

3. WITH REGARD TO BRAZIL'S DESIRES FOR ENRICHMENT TECHNOLOGY, EMBASSY MAY REITERATE THAT US POLICY ON TRANSFER OF THAT TECHNOLOGY REMAINS AS SPECIFIED IN STATE 147932 (SENT TO RIO ON JULY 9, 1974 AND BEING REPEATED TO BRASILIA). US DOES NOT RULE OUT EVENTUAL BRAZILIAN PARTICIPATION IN POSSIBLE REGIONAL ENRICHMENT FACILITIES AS LONG AS (1) PLANTS HAVE ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS, (2) THEY HAVE MULTILATERAL OWNERSHIP, AND (3) TECHNOLOGY IS NOT RETRANSFERRED. (FYI. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE THAT CONDITIONS FOR US PARTICIPATION IN SUCH MULTILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MET IN THE NEAR FUTURE. END OF FYI)

4. FYI. IN A MAJOR EFFORT TO ENSURE A COMMON SAFEGUARDS POLICY, USG IS PROPOSING MULTILATERAL COORDINATION AMONG SUPPLIERS OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY INCLUDING FRG. IF FRG SHOULD GAIN IMPRESSION DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY FROM GOB THAT WE ARE TRYING TO USE ARGUMENTS CONCERNING SAFEGUARDS, ETC. TO GAIN COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGES, US-FRG COOPERATION ON LARGER ISSUE OF NON-PROLIFERATION MIGHT BE SERIOUSLY UNDERCUT. IN THIS REGARD, WE DO NOT BELIEVE AN APPROACH TO GERMAN AMBASSADOR IN BRAZIL AS SUGGESTED IN BRASILIA 8604 WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AT THIS TIME. SIMILARLY, GREAT CARE SHOULD BE EXERCISED NOT TO LEAVE SUCH AN IMPRESSION IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GOB ABOUT GERMAN CAPABILITIES. END FYI. IF ASKED BY GOB, HOWEVER, EMBASSY MAY WISH TO REITERATE THAT FRG'S CAPABILITY TO PROVIDE LONG TERM ENRICHMENT SERVICE APPEARS LESS FAVORABLE THAN THAT OF US (SEE PARA. 2 OF STATE 24243). EMBASSY MAY MENTION THAT ALTHOUGH US IS NOT REALLY IN POSITION TO COMMENT AUTHORITATIVELY ON POSSIBLE TRANSFER OF FOREIGN ENRICHMENT TECHNOLOGIES, URENCO CHARTER SPECIFIES THAT SUCH TRANSFERS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO IAEA SAFEGUARDS REQUIRED BY NPT, AS BRAZILIANS UNDOUBTEDLY AWARE.

5. FYI. WITH REGARD TO WESTINGHOUSE PROPOSAL FOR SPECIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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AEC/STATE DELEGATION TO BRAZIL (PARA 3 OF BRASILIA 8624), DEPT. DOES NOT REPEAT NOT BELIEVE SUCH MISSION WOULD BE HELPFUL IN VIEW OF USG'S INABILITY TO MAKE ANY NEW COMMITMENT OR OFFERS. WE HOPE INSTEAD THAT UEKI VISIT HERE WILL SERVE TO REASSURE BRAZILIANS AS TO SINCERITY OF US AS RELIABLE SUPPLIER AND AS TO MERITS OF US EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY. END FYI. KISSINGER

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